

From: [Sen Riley](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of HB 2830-2
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:30:48 AM

Sending this in the event it was not already posted. Kindly disregard if found to be a duplicate.

Thank you,
Linda Ray-Keeney

Chief of Staff
State Senator Chuck Riley
[Senate District 15](#)
900 Court St. NE / S-303
Salem, OR 97301
Office: 503-986-1715
sen.chuckriley@oregonlegislature.gov

-

From: mbau5544@comcast.net [mailto:mbau5544@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:01 AM
To: Sen Riley <Sen.ChuckRiley@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2830-2

Dear Senator Riley, Joint Committee on Tax Reform

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

I ask you to Support HB 2830, The Revenue Reform & Education Stability Act. This bill would provide more stability and needed resources for schools and social services. Now is the time to find a long term revenue reform solution that will permanently solve our growing needs and invest in our workforce. We know that cost containment will not be enough. With these good economic times, take the opportunity to invest in our children.

This plan is more equitable, it is directed to education, includes the income tax adjustment & a lot of thoughtful reasoning has gone into it. There has been plenty of time for corporations to review and add their thoughtful consideration. When I speak to business owners in opposition, they are not yet aware of the details and how the majority are unaffected. It's time for the corporations to pay their fair share and help build a strong workforce that will result in strong economic growth.

In North **Clackamas we are desperately trying to plan a school budget for the next 2 years.** A budget of \$8.2 B still means cuts to us of approx. \$2 M from the current service level and another \$7 M from our fund balance. We are fortunate that

our staff is willing to take a freeze in salaries and “days off”. Our class sizes are already among the largest in the state & nation. We have worked hard to make good decisions in North Clackamas, but there is never enough for our broken system of instability and inadequacy. North Clackamas has our own health insurance plan that is cheaper than the state plan and a PERs bonding that minimizes our PERS increases compared to others, yet still an increase. We will be spending down our surplus to minimum levels. **ALL of this in GOOD Economic Times!** How can we weather the next recession?

We cannot keep up this devastating cycle. For the past 30 years, I've watch as my children and many others have suffered the impacts of the dismantling of public education. With fewer HS Graduates (3rd lowest in US): means fewer college graduates and fewer skilled workers, mainly minimum wage service jobs as our biggest job growth sector, more families in poverty with high needs children struggle in our underfunded schools.

Oregon school funding is now **25% below** what a **non-partisan, research-based study (the Quality Education Model)** says it would take to get 90% of Oregon students to graduation.

Here's a portion of a letter from one of our parents about her son who is graduating from high school this week.

“This class has experienced budget cuts throughout their 13 years of K-12 education. This is how my son remembers his school years:

- **Kindergarten:** The last week of school was canceled due to funding cuts.
- **1st Grade:** Elementary science was eliminated due to funding cuts.
- **2nd Grade:** Their only field trip was a public bus ride to the public library, because their school had no library.
- **6th Grade:** My child's elementary school building was closed due to funding cuts.
- **7th Grade:** Due to inadequate administrative staffing, student pranksters pulled the fire alarm dozens of times throughout the school year, resulting in constant learning disruptions and fines to the school.
- **8th Grade:** Science and Social Studies instruction time was cut in half to allow more time for math and language arts because students were struggling to meet the rigorous Common Core standards.
- **9th Grade:** 25% of district teachers, classified staff, and administrators were laid off due to the funding gap. Secondary class sizes rose 46 in academic subjects, 60 in PE, and 100 in band/choir/orchestra. Our favorite orchestra teacher taught in 9 schools that year, serving elementary, middle school, and high school kids. As an educator in the district, I was among those laid off that year, cutting our family income in half. In addition, 14 days were cut from the school year.
- **10th Grade:** Another 10 days were cut from the school year.

- **11th Grade:** My son most wanted to take, College Chemistry, but the class was eliminated.
- **12th Grade:** Of an 8 period class day, my son [a top student] was only allowed to take 6 classes.

We cannot wait another generation. We need your leadership in support.

Thank you,
Mitzi Bauer, North Clackamas School Board & member of Parent Community
Leadership Alliance